

REMARKS

Claims 1-9, 12, 14-22 and 24-32 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 16, 20, 21 and 24 are amended, and claims 10, 23 and 33-35 are canceled.

Applicants appreciate that the Examiner indicates that claims 23 and 33-35 recite allowable subject matter.

Reconsideration of the current rejections and objections based on the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. The Specification Satisfies All Formal Requirements

The Office Action objects to the specification as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the terms “polypropylene homopolymer” and “aspect ratio”. These terms are canceled from the claims to obviate the objection. Withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

II. The Claims Satisfy All Formal Requirements

The Office Action objects to claim 10 as failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Claim 10 is canceled to obviate this objection. Withdrawal of the objection to the claims is respectfully requested.

III. The Claims Satisfy the Requirements Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Office Action rejects claims 1-10, 12 and 14-35 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph as containing subject matter which is not supported by the original disclosure. The amendments made to claims 1, 16, 20, 21 and 24 obviate this rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph is respectfully requested.

The Office Action also rejects claims 1-10, 12 and 14-35 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. The amendments made to claims 1, 16, 20, 21 and 24 and the cancellation of claim 10 obviates this rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph is respectfully requested.

IV. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3, 10, 12, 14-16, 19-21 and 24-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over Lunn et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,999,235); claims 1-10, 12, 14-22 and 24-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over Swanson et al. (WO 00/78883 A1); and claims 4, 5, 8, 9, 17, 18 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Lunn. Withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

Independent claims 1, 16, 20, 21 and 24 are amended to recite "each bonding point being formed from a collection of smaller bonding points that are grouped together". The Examiner pointed out that this subject matter is allowable. Thus, for at least this reason, the independent claims and the claims dependent therefrom are in condition for allowance.

If an extension of time is required to enable this document to be timely filed and there is no separate Request for Extension of Time, this document is to be construed as also constituting a Request for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for a period of time sufficient to enable this document to be timely filed. Any fee required for such a Request for Extension of Time and any other fee required by this document pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 and not submitted herewith should be charged

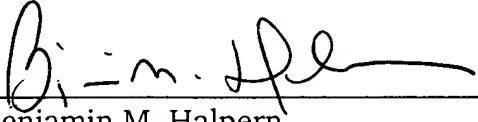
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to the Deposit Account of the undersigned attorneys, Account No. 01-1785; any refund should be credited to the same account.

Respectfully submitted

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